

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05  
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02  
TRSE-00 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 ITC-01 CTME-00 /166 W  
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FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2227

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0330

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS CA US

SUBJECT: OH WHAT A LOVELY (FISH) WAR: THE  
CANADIAN EAST COAST VIEW

REF: DAY-MOORE TELCON 6/21/78

1. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THIS OFFICE INDICATES  
THAT CANADIAN FISHERMEN ARE NOT AT THIS TIME SERIOUSLY  
DISCOMMODATED, EITHER FROM AN OPERATIONAL OR A FINANCIAL  
POINT OF VIEW, BY BEING PROHIBITED FROM FISHING IN  
AMERICAN WATERS. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS NO REASON TO  
BELIEVE THAT EITHER THE FISHERMEN OR THE FISH PROCESSING  
COMPANIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA ARE LIKELY TO SUFFER TO ANY  
APPRECIABLE EXTENT EVEN IF SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME IS REQUIRED  
TO NEGOTIATE A NEW US-CANADIAN FISHING AGREEMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO INFORMANTS IN BOTH THE PROVINCIAL AND  
FEDERAL FISHERIES DEPARTMENTS HERE IN HALIFAX,  
CANADIAN FISHERMEN REGRET THE LOSS OF THE  
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FLEXIBILITY THEY WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE HAD IN  
PURSUING FISH STOCKS WHICH MIGHT MIGRATE FROM THE  
DISPUTED ZONE INTO AMERICAN WATERS. BUT ASIDE FROM  
THIS LOSS, THERE ARE ONLY MINOR DISRUPTIONS CAUSED  
THUS FAR OR LIKELY TO BE CAUSED IN FUTURE BY THE SO-  
CALLED FISH WAR. AMONG THOSE DISRUPTIONS WAS THE  
BANNING OF A HANDFUL OF CANADIAN HERRING FISHERMEN FROM

ICNAF AREA 5Y OFF THE COAST OF MAINE. THESE BOATS HAVE SHIFTED TO THE BAY OF FUNDY HERRING FISHERY. ANOTHER DISRUPTION WILL COME THIS AUTUMN, IF THE FISH WAR IS CONTINUED TO THAT TIME, WHEN CANADIAN BOATS WILL BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLLOCK FISHERY EXTENDING WESTWARDS FROM GEORGES BANK. THE GOC S DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FISHERIES FOR THE MARITIMES REGION TELLS ME, HOWEVER, THAT HE EXPECTS THAT CANADIAN FISHERMEN WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE FILLING THEIR POLLOCK QUOTAS WITHIN CANADIAN WATERS.

3. IT IS BUSINESS AS USUAL IN THE ILLEGAL SWORDFISHERY. THOSE CANADIAN BOATS WHICH FORMERLY OPERATED IN AMERICAN WATERS HAVE REPORTEDLY SHIFTED NORTHWARDS, REPLACING U.S. SWORDFISHERMEN WHO FORMERLY FISHED OFF NOVA SCOTIA. THE CANADIAN BOATS ARE SAID TO RENDEZVOUS WITH U.S. BOATS IN THE DISPUTED ZONE FOR OVER-THE-SIDE SALES OF SWORDFISH.

4. COMMENT: IF THE FISH WAR SHOE PINCHES AT ALL, IT PINCHES THE U.S. FOOT PERHAPS marginally MORE THAN THE CANADIAN--ALTHOUGH NEITHER SIDE SEEMS TO BE HURTING INTENSELY. THERE CONTINUE TO BE THE BEST OF GOOD FEELINGS TOWARD THE UNITED STATES HERE, PARTICULARLY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE WELCOME USG DECISION TO WAIVE THE IMPOSITION OF COUNTERVAILING

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DUTIES ON FISH. AS WARS GO, THE U.S.-CANADIAN FISH WAR IS A MODEL TO THE WORLD. AND IF WAR IS HELL, FISHERMEN HAVE LITTLE TO FEAR IN THE AFTERLIFE. END COMMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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